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10/9/03

PATENT APPLICATION
Q65011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroo MATSUNAGA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/993,504

Confirmation No.: 8148

Filed: November 27, 2001

For: VULCANIZATION PROCESS FOR PNEUMATIC
TIRE AND MOLD THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: TBA

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) that the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d); or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and, therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. Nonetheless,

inasmuch as a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) can be made, Applicants submit the same herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within thirty days from the date of issuance (September 17, 2003) of a European Search Report issued in connection with a counterpart foreign application (EP 01 30 9881) and, therefore, a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is also attached hereto.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants also enclose herewith a copy of the aforementioned European Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the searching authority.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 6, 2003



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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned attorney after making a reasonable inquiry, the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 6, 2003

Substitute for Form PTO-1449 A & B

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 09/993,504 |
| Confirmation Number | 8148 |
| Filing Date | November 27, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroo MATSUNAGA |
| Art Unit | 1733 |
| Examiner Name | TBA |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q65011 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | AA | 4,662,833 | A | 05/05/1987 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
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| | AI | GB | 1 016 124 | A | 01/05/1966 | Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. | |
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| | AT | | | | | | |

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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| | AU | | |
| | AV | | |
| | AW | | |
| | AX | | |
| | AY | | |
| | AZ | | |

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.